

REMARKS

The amendment to the specification corrects an obvious typographical error.

Claims 1-27 are in the application. Claims 1, 9, 15, 21, and 25 are in independent form.

Applicant submits that the proposed amendments to claim 1, 9, and 15 incorporate a limitation similar to one in original claims 21 and 25, and that this amendment therefore does not require a new search and should be entered.

Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 for obviousness over Center for Metalloenzyme Studies: Summer Undergraduate Research Program ("SURP"). Claim 1 is a method of encouraging completion of forms through the introduction "during forms processing of appropriate communication to the applicant " and "after the user enters information into one or more information fields of the form."

SURP teaches viewing faculty advisor web pages before the student begins to complete the form, not "during forms processing of appropriate communication to the applicant " and "after the user enters information into one or more information fields of the form." SURP states "[F]irst visit this page to select your three choices of faculty advisor, then submit the online application form at the bottom of this page . . ."

Applicant addresses and solves the problem of individuals beginning to complete a form and then failing to complete it. The number of admissions application received by a school can be reduced because some students that begin a lengthy admissions form lack the motivation to complete the form. By encouraging completion of a form once started, the number of admissions applications can be increased. This problem is not addressed in SURP, in which the links are accessed before beginning the form. Taking the SURP reference as a whole for what it teaches, it teaches selecting a faculty advisor and then completing a form.

Similarly, claim 9 recites "introducing during the form-completion process an appropriate communication to a user," "displaying the communication to the user upon the occurrence of an event during completion of the form," and "after the user enters information into one or more information fields of the form." As describe above, the display of the faculty advisors in not "during completion of the form" and "after the user enters information into one or more information fields of the form." Claim 15 recites a similar limitation.

Regarding claims 3, 10, and 16, the Examiner points out that SURP teaches providing a means of communicating with the identified individual. Claim 3 recites, however, that the means to communicate is provided "after" completing the form, thereby providing incentive to complete the form. Providing the means to communicate after completing the form also reduce the burden on the individual from the institution, because he or she is not bothered by communications from individuals that are not sufficiently interested in the institution to complete the form. In SURP, the e-mail address of the faculty is available before the form is even begun. Thus, SURP does not provide the incentive to complete the form in order to be given the means to communicate.

Claim 8 explicitly recites that the "individual cannot be contacted until the user completes the form." The Examiner states in paragraph 10 of the Office action that SURP "teaches providing to the user a response when an application is completed, the response containing a message from an individual associated with the university and a means of contacting the individual. This means of contact is available only after a user completes the application and submits it." Applicants fail to find this limitation in SURP. It appears that the student can link to the faculty web site and learn the faculty members' e-mail before completing the form. Moreover, applicants see no indication in SURP that the student receives a message from the faculty member after completing the form.

Regarding claims 11 and 17, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to use a pop-up window in SURP. Applicants submit that there is no incentive to modify SURP to use a pop-up window because in SURP, the faculty web page is viewed to select an advisor before completing the form. SURP does not teach displaying information during the process of completing the form, so there is no reason to use a pop-up window, which is useful while completing the form, since it does remove the form from the screen and is therefore less distracting.

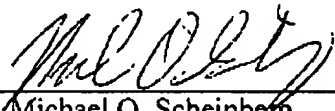
Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 for obviousness over SURP in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,249,291 to Popp et al. Applicants submit that these claims are patentable for the reasons described above with respect to the corresponding independent claims.

Amendments to the existing claims are for clarity or broadening, and are not narrowing amendments.

Applicants submit that the claims are allowable for the reasons described above and respectfully requests that the amendment be entered and the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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